



Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: 27 Maple Street, HHS Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Conducted by Hybrid (Remote and In-Person)

Present: Co-Chairs Griffin Jones and Drake Pusey; Commissioners: Kristen Bauer, Crystal Beauchemin, Christine Carney, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Scott Jones, Laurie Key

Absent: Commissioner Kevin Bryant

Staff: Jillian Harvey (DEI Director), Sadie Ford (Intern)

Guests: Rebecca Gruber

Minutes

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 8:01 pm by Co-Chair Pusey.
2. Review of December 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Commissioner Bauer made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2023 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grossman, voted and passed with two abstentions.
3. Co-Chair Nomination and Election
 - a. Commissioner Carney made a motion to nominate Commissioner Griffin Jones to be Co-Chair for the calendar year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beauchemin. Commissioner G. Jones accepted the nomination, the motion passed unanimously.
4. Review and Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates
 - a. Commissioner Bauer moved to accept the 2024 AHRC meeting dates as discussed, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Horowitz and passed unanimously. Commissioner Carney will send the updated meeting dates to Jillian Harvey.
5. DEI Updates
 - a. Monday 1/15: MLK birthday observance at town hall 36th annual, was a success, full house, recording will be available at end of this week.
 - i. In terms of attendance and how to get such a large turnout: Some people just know to show up because of its history- same day each year, others saw the sign outside of Town Hall

- ii. Timing is difficult for families with young children-it can be a late evening
 - iii. Choir from school was different, parents came to watch
 - iv. Arlington kids performing, parents leave right after, the kids sang at the END of the program, kept more people there for longer
 - v. There used to be a potluck dinner that started whole MLK event, that component has not happened in some years
 - vi. Need to have more participation in planning from the community members, need new ideas from new people but also people who've attended in past
 - vii. Commission wasn't mentioned as co-sponsors for the program
 - viii. Concern some donations for the event from a church wasn't received
 - ix. Anyone who wants to join the committee can, reach out to Jill or Crystal
- b. Lunar New Year: 1/25, 4-630, crafts, groups tabling, and performances
 - i. 4-5 is activities
 - ii. 5-6:30 is performances- singing and dancing
- c. Commissions
 - i. DEI commissions all have openings: Rainbow 3, HRC 2, Disability 4
 - ii. Disability committee lost a member in early December, was honored at MLK program
- d. REACH
 - i. Town applied and got into Massachusetts Racial Equity Advancement & Collaborative Hub (REACH) which will support us in continuing the DEI work and initiatives.
 - 1. 12 people team, including leadership and department heads and others
 - 2. Arlington and other municipalities accepted - this program is designed for a learning community
 - 3. 1st meeting will happen in Boston each month starting 2/14; there will be one full-day session for all the people who were accepted to do trainings, talk about challenges and do work, this is facilitated by MAPC, GARE and Federal Reserve of Boston
- e. Programs
 - i. Event with Children's Room 2/11 in the evening at the Community Center, Teresa is leading
 - 1. Around healing community grief
 - 2. Will need to cap registration
 - ii. Confirming know your rights training with MCAD for March
 - iii. Resource and Connections Fair- to happen again in spring, the selected date needs to be changed from 3/31
 - 1. Coordinating partners are EATS, Anna, Libby, and DEI office
- 6. Incidents & Complaints
 - a. Commissioner Updates
 - b. APD Updates: None
 - c. Incident Handling
 - i. December: Commissioner Horowitz
 - ii. January: Commissioner Soneja

- iii. February: Commissioner Scott Jones
- 7. Co-Chairs Report
 - a. APD Meeting with Chief Flaherty
 - b. Meeting with DEI Co-Chairs
 - c. Review of Commissioner Term Dates and Training Status
 - d. Incident Coverage Signups
 - e. Coffee Chat Signups
- 8. Working Group Updates
 - a. Schools & Education: Did not meet this month
 - b. Outreach / Events: Lunar New Year Celebration January 25, 2024 at the Town Hall, Day of Learning, Saturday, February 10 at Arlington High School. There are no new banners for BHM (February), but a month of activities is being planned. Considering a future Day of Learning for April focusing on housing. In May the AHRC will be co-sponsoring an event with the Arlington Historical Society. In October the AHRC will be co-sponsoring an event for Indigenous Peoples' Day.
 - c. Communications: Did not meet but will be sending out emails to email subscribers about upcoming events.
 - d. Event Against Anti-Semitism (Commissioners Bryant, Scott Jones & Carney): Did not meet. Will plan to meet soon.
- 9. AHRC Responses to Tragic Human Rights Events (Commissioners Bauer & Horowitz):
 - a. The proposed policy, including delegation to the co-chairs of decision-making regarding how to respond to tragic human rights events in a timely manner, was voted upon and passed with one vote against. Commissioner Bauer made the motion and Commission Horowitz seconded the motion.
 - b. The Communications working group will develop communication templates.
 - c. The Events working group will develop a kit for vigils or other timely events.
 - d. The policy will be explained on our website and through an email.
 - e. The policy will be discussed, revised, and re-approved next year.
- 10. Racial and Economic Intentions and Ramifications of MBTA Communities Plan:
 - a. The process by which the plan was developed and approved was discussed to confirm that DEI considerations were included.
- 11. Community Input: None
- 12. MAHRC Update (Commissioner Soneja):
 - a. Commissioner Soneja reported on the January meeting of the MAHRC. It was a short meeting with no speaker. The Committee is to form a public-facing role.
- 13. Announcements: None
- 14. Adjournment

Next meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2024, 8:00 PM

Anyone needing accessibility information or assistance to attend this meeting should contact Tim Ross at tross@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.